

Christmas Facts and Fancies



By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

THREE WISE MEN, as everyone knows, paid homage to Jesus at his birth. Their story is told in part thus in the Gospel according to St. Matthew:

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem.

Saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the East, and are come to worship him.

When Herod the King had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet.

And thou, Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, art not the least among the princes of Judea; for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed, and, lo, the star, which they saw in the East, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasure, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

These Three Wise Men were named Melchior, Kaspar and Balthazar. They are sometimes called the "Three Kings of Cologne." Their bones are said to rest in the cathedral of Cologne. This is the finest specimen of Gothic architecture in Europe and its building took more than 600 years—1248 to 1880. Anyway, skulls purporting to be theirs were exhibited as late as the Eighteenth century. To touch them was to be healed. An old prayer charm reads:

To three holy kings,
Kaspar, Melchior and Balthazar,
Pray for us now
And in the hour of death.

Early tradition supplemented this account by adding a fourth wise man. And the story of this fourth wise man is one for us all to keep in mind at Christmas time.

This fourth wise man started with the other three to make the journey to Jerusalem and pay homage to the new-born King. But he never reached the manger where lay the child. Instead he sacrificed his life to render service. Nevertheless, before he died he was granted a vision of the Christ. Henry Van Dyke's "The Story of the Other Wise Man" tells the tradition most excellently well:

Detained by his efforts to save a dying stranger, Artaban becomes separated from his companions. He, therefore, seeks the Christ alone, travelling from place to place, feeding the hungry as he goes, clothing the naked, nursing the sick, comforting the oppressed.

One after another he spends for others the precious gifts which he had hoped to offer to the Christ. At last he surrenders his one remaining pearl in order to ransom a tormented slave girl.

Struck on the temple by a falling tile, he lies bleeding and breathless. But he hears a Voice commanding him.

Unable to believe the testimony of his own ears, the Other Wise Man murmurs:

"Not so, my Lord! For when saw I Thee an hungry and fed Thee? Or thirsty, and gave Thee drink? When saw I Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? Or asked, and clothed Thee? When saw I Thee sick and in prison and came unto Thee? Three-and-thirty years have I looked after Thee; but I have never seen Thy face, nor ministered to Thee my King."

But the Voice replied:

"Inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, thou hast done it unto me."

Is it hard to imagine the Fourth Wise Man re-



appearing on earth at Christmas time with a message to all mankind? Certainly he has a message well worth delivering. And certainly it is a message well worth listening to. For from his experience he could say to us:

"You have served God only as you have served men."

The Christian citizen should be serving God in relation to his home, his community and his nation. There are those who are serving God by trying to improve the conditions under which their less privileged fellows live and work, by trying to bring more of justice, beauty, peace and love into the life of the world. It is to be feared that most of us fall far short here. But he is a poor Christian and a poor citizen indeed who, having, can pass Christmas without doing something in keeping with the day for those who have not.

Everywhere in our modern Twentieth century life we meet the very people whom Jesus painted in living words 2,000 years ago—the prodigal son, who "came to himself"; the elder brother, who "was angry and would not go in"; the priest and the Levite, who "passed by on the other side"; the good Samaritan, who "was moved with compassion"; the Pharisee, who thanked God that he was "not as other men are"; the publican, who cried "God be merciful unto me, a sinner!"

At Christmas time, if at no other, it is well for us to be the publican and the good Samaritan.

Without Christmas tree, holly and mistletoe Christmas would seem strange indeed to most Americans. The balsam fir is most used for Christmas trees, but doubtless almost any kind of evergreen can be used in an emergency. And some of the municipal and community center Christmas trees nowadays are of great size, especially when they are set up outdoors.

The photograph of the Christmas tree reproduced herewith is worth studying as something quite out of the ordinary in several respects. In the first place, in the original photograph three separate exposures of the plate were made—the first for the building and its lights; the second for the Christmas tree and its lights, and the third for the moon. Each exposure varied in length to suit the different degrees of brilliance.

And where do you suppose this unusual photograph was taken? Why, at the annual Christmas celebration in Yosemite valley, Yosemite National park, California. Most people think that all the national parks are closed in the winter time. Well, they are not. Rocky Mountain National park in Colorado has a carnival of winter sports in February. Mount Rainier National park in Washington has winter sports and a ski tournament as late as July. And Yosemite is open the year 'round. And Yosemite's Christmas celebration includes a fat, jolly, fur-clad Santa Claus who drives up in the old-fashioned way in his sleigh and distributes his gifts to the village children.

But that isn't all about this unusual picture. What kind of a tree do you suppose the Christmas tree is? You could not guess if your Christmas gifts depended upon your guess. That's because it is the only one of its kind in the whole world.

This Christmas tree is nothing less than a living Sequoia tree. The Sequoia (Sequoia gigantea) is the oldest and biggest living thing in the world.

Some of the biggest and oldest of them are 35 feet in diameter and at least 5,000 years old. So you see many of these Big Trees in Sequoia and Yosemite national parks were not even middle-aged when Christ was born in Bethlehem.

This particular Sequoia Christmas tree was planted in 1890. From a seedling it has grown to a height of more than 80 feet. A thousand years from now it will probably be nearly 300 feet tall and have a diameter of 15 or 20 feet.

One wonders if there will be a similar Christmas celebration in Yosemite valley then—a thousand years from now. Why not? Christmas will still be celebrated then—if the world endures. And our nineteenth national parks have been set apart by congress as public playgrounds for the people forever. So, if the United States of America endures, why not a Christmas celebration in Yosemite A. D. 2922? All that seems to be necessary is the planting of a Sequoia seedling every thirty years or so.

Christmas and mince pie! Nobody ought to have to tell anybody that Christmas is the time for mince pie. Why, the two go together—just like Thanksgiving and pumpkin pie and the Fourth of July and spring lamb and green peas. The first mince pie of the winter should grace the Christmas board; any housewife who gives her family even a taste of one before Christmas day should go with-out a new Easter hat—that's the punishment to fit the crime. And any man who eats mince pie at a restaurant or at his club before Christmas day should go without mince pie all winter.

However, if he should, his punishment would likely fit the crime. For nowadays the making of mince pies is largely a lost art. The ordinary restaurant mince pie is nothing but minced fruit.

There is a saying that every really good woman cook must have a temper. Maybe. Certainly she should be nice and plump—as if she ate her own mince pies and thrived on them. And it's easy to tell by watching a woman make mince pies whether or not they're going to be a success. If she goes at it, you know, as if it were sort of a religious rite—as if the fate of the nation hung on her work—why, all is well.

"Pies like mother used to make!" Tenderloin of beef and Northern Spy apples and real cider and everything else to correspond! Maybe mother used to bake her pies a dozen at a time and set them away in a cold store room to freeze. Maybe mother got her mince meat ready and set it aside in a big stone jar to ripen. It doesn't make any difference. They were real mince pies when they got to the Christmas dinner. The looks of them! The smell of them! The taste of them! Yum, yum! There's a memory a fellow can carry with him to his grave.

Do you remember Isaac Walton's friend Dr. Boteler and his famous appreciation of the strawberry? Well, it's quite evident the good doctor never sat down to just the right kind of a Christmas dinner or he would have ignored the strawberry as unworthy of his cleverness and would have said instead that doubtless God could have inspired some heaven-born cook to make a more appropriate dessert for December 25 than mince pie but that doubtless God never did.

est library of which any record is available was discovered in Assyria a few years ago and consists of Babylonian books inscribed on clay tablets, supposed to have been prepared for public instruction about 650 B. C. It is said that Ptolemy founded a library at Athens about 337 B. C., although there is no clear evidence of the fact. Strabo says that Aristotle was the first known collector of a library, which he bequeathed to Theophrastus 322 B. C., and this library at length found its way to Rome.

The word library is taken from the Latin word "liber," a book. The old-

STORIES from Here and There

Greater New York Swallows 'Em All



GREATER NEW YORK.—At a meeting of the Broadway Merchants' Association of Brooklyn, N. Y., the following resolution was adopted: "Whereas, the name Williamsburg Bridge refers to a section not geographically bounded and vague and foreign to most of the population, it is advocated that the name be changed to Broadway Bridge. Thus the traveling public will recognize the terminal of the bridge and much confusion will be averted."

So the big bridge between Brooklyn and New York is likely to be known

as Broadway and with the change will pass the last vestige of recognition of Williamsburg. This is interesting because there was once a city of Williamsburg within the boundaries of the present city of New York.

Williamsburg was a village—one of the many that made up what is now Brooklyn—until 1851, when it was incorporated as a city and Dr. A. J. Berry was elected mayor. He took office in 1852, and Williamsburg assumed its place as one of the cities of New York state, along with New York, Brooklyn, Albany and other centers of population.

In 1853 the project of a Greater Brooklyn materialized. Brooklyn, Bushwick and Williamsburg (then a city of 5,000 inhabitants) were consolidated, and Williamsburg as a city, after two years only of separate existence, ceased to exist. The mayor of Williamsburg laid down the regalia of office sixty-six years ago. The Greater New York will celebrate the twenty-fifth year of its establishment next year—its first quarter of a century.

"Because the Law Should Be Enforced"

MINNEAPOLIS.—That he was severe in sentencing liquor law violators "because the law should be enforced," and "because it never can be made effective unless I am severe," was the statement of Judge Page Morris of the United States District court here.

Judge Morris' wholesale sentencing to jail of bootleggers and vendors of illicit liquor has caused consternation among those arrested for violating the law. Many persons plead they have large families and ask to be let off with fines. Such pleas generally result in heavier jail sentences and fines. "It is remarkable the number of large families we have in this district," Judge Morris asserted.

"Easy sentences don't accomplish anything," said the federal jurist, "and I am sending liquor law violators to jail wherever the statutes enable me to do so."

Judge Morris said he imposed sentences to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth only in extreme cases, but two men had been recently sent to that institution when convicted of conspiracy to violate the liquor laws.



Four county jails in this district have been comfortably filled with federal paying "guests" since Judge Morris started his campaign several weeks ago.

"But there is plenty of room yet," he said. "Ramsey, Hennepin, Winona and Wabasha counties' jails are pretty full, but there is still plenty of room."

Judge Morris has adopted several means for speeding up liquor cases. For one thing, an accused who pleads guilty for the first offense generally has the option of a fine or at least a comparatively short jail sentence. But to plead not guilty and then be convicted means jail.

Greek Sage Had Nothing on This One



LOS ANGELES.—Weird ceremonies and strange beliefs have been partially revealed through the filing of a contest of the will of Walter Lockwood Thales, who for a third of a century led his disciples in practicing Oriental teachings.

At the coming hearing of the case in the Superior court of Orange county at Santa Ana, the secrets of the "Mystery House" on the Thales estate near Placentia, where Thales and many of his original followers lie buried under the trees, will also be disclosed.

Relatives of Thales, who came here from England after his will bequeathed

ing ten acres of land near Placentia to the four remaining colonists was filed for probate, initiated the contest. Opposing the contestants are Mrs. Matilda Wiederhold, her son, William, Mary and Vera Smith and Frank V. Hinde, all members of the colony.

Thirty-five years ago Thales came to California and founded his cult. People from all over the world came to join the mysterious colony. The peculiar tenets which Thales taught his followers may be briefly summarized as follows: That the living members of the colony, were in constant communion with the dead. To this end, Thales asserted that he had the seams of his head opened to let the spirits in.

All of the rooms in the "Mystery House" were built in circular form. Thales declared that square rooms were a bad thing for the spirits.

Thales died December 24, 1921. Louis Lockwood, Thomas Lockwood, Martha Carter and Hammond Lockwood, all of England, caught the next steamer after they heard of Thales' death. They declared that Thales was mentally unfit to draw up a will.

The Eccentric's Spurned Million Dollars

NEW YORK.—When Charles Garland, eccentric Massachusetts "socialist" and "plutonic love expert," inherited \$1,000,000 more than a year ago, he startled the world by refusing to accept it. He said nobody was entitled to that money and he began his investigations in the realm of love.

Between his researches for the "true mate" and his trustees' efforts to dispose of the legacy, Garland has caused a great deal of publicity. Various young women have come and gone from the "love farm" near Lenox, Mass., and Mrs. Garland finally got tired of the dual role of wife and witness to her mate's experiments. She sailed to Europe recently.

Last July Garland turned over \$850,000 to the American Fund for Public Service, Inc., to be used only for "public services."

"Since July," said Roger N. Baldwin, secretary of the fund, "the directors made a complete survey of the whole field of enterprises of an experimental or pioneer character in



order to shape a policy for handling the money if it is taken over. So far the directors have been merely responding to the pressure of the needs put up to them.

"Only about one-third of the 181 applications made have been favorably considered. The full \$200,000 of income has been paid out or pledged and about \$60,000 uninvested capital has been loaned out at interest to nine different enterprises, chiefly labor publications. One loan of about \$25,000 was made for strike relief to a district of the United Mine Workers."

After the Nestlings Have Flown Away



COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.—Mrs. Benjamin C. Allen has met and is solving the question which is faced by many women whose children have grown up, married and moved away. She has found that the house that seemed "comfortably roomy" when the family was all under roof is too large when the younger members are gone to their own homes.

Mrs. Allen's problem is even greater than that of most women, for hers is a 40-room house. It is a \$500,000 mansion, which for fifteen years has been a show place in a locality of show

places—Broadmoor. Her method of solution was unique. She is having the mansion wrecked and it will be replaced by a \$10,000 bungalow of considerably less than 40 rooms—four rooms.

Brick by brick the structure is being demolished. More than 100 workmen are busy in all parts of the huge building. Each polished narrow strip of the hardwood flooring is carefully lifted and stored for future use. The great paneled oak doors and the wainscoting are loosened with infinite care and taken away without so much as a mark of a hammer or crowbar. Weeks ago every piece of furniture was taken away in its white coverings.

Mrs. Allen has left for Philadelphia, where she formerly was a social leader. While there she will consult her architect on the plans for the \$10,000 bungalow which will be erected. When it is finished Mrs. Allen will return to make it her home. The estate, except for the mansion, will stand as it is. Mrs. Allen expects then really to be comfortable.

WHY DRUGGISTS RECOMMEND SWAMP-ROOT

For many years druggists have watched with much interest the remarkable record maintained by Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney, liver and bladder medicine.

It is a physician's prescription. Swamp-Root is a strengthening medicine. It helps the kidneys, liver and bladder do the work nature intended they should do.

Swamp-Root has stood the test of years. It is sold by all druggists on its merit and it should help you. No other kidney medicine has so many friends.

Be sure to get Swamp-Root and start treatment at once.

However, if you wish first to test this great preparation send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle. When writing be sure and mention this paper—Advertisement.

Time for One, Then.

"Mama, Tige's begging. Must I give him a piece of my cookie?"

"Of course you must—"

"Well, I haven't any cookie!"—Life.

The Cuticura Toilet Trio.

Having cleared your skin keep it clear by making Cuticura your every-day toilet preparations. The Soap to cleanse and purify, the Ointment to soothe and heal, the Talcum to powder and perfume. No toilet table is complete without them.—Advertisement.

A Sure Sign.

"Is your wife a good cook?"

"She must be. All her relatives stop with us when they visit town."

Important to Mothers.

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, that famous old remedy for infants and children, and see that it Bears the

Signature of *Dr. H. H. Fletcher*

In Use for Over 30 Years.

Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

Compensation.

Husband—Ah, when I think of the old days! Then I could have goose at table!

Wife—But, Fritz, you have me!—Lustige Blaetter, Berlin.

W.L. DOUGLAS

\$5 \$6 \$7 \$8 SHOES FOR MEN

W. L. Douglas shoes are actually demanded year after year by more people than any other shoe in the world

BECAUSE W. L. Douglas shoes are made by a man who has been making shoes for forty-six years. This experience of only half a century in making shoes suitable for men and women in all walks of life should mean something to you when you are looking for the best shoe values for your money.

W. L. DOUGLAS shoes in quality, material and workmanship are better than ever before. Only by examining them can you appreciate their superior quality.

No Matter Where You Live shoe dealers can supply you with W. L. Douglas shoes. If you cannot visit a store, write to me and I will send you a list of the nearest dealer.

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